

Copy of Claims of U.S. Patent No. 5,694,951 Cited in the Double Patenting Rejection

- Claim 1. A method of harvesting and utilizing a patient's body tissue, said method comprising the steps of removing tissue from a first location in a patient's body. transporting the tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body to a collection location, said step of transporting the tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body includes moving the tissue under the influence of suction, said step of moving the tissue under the influence of suction includes moving the tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body under the influence of a flow of fluid conducted to the collection location, said step of transporting the tissue removed from a first location in a patient's body to a collection location further includes removing the tissue from the flow of fluid at the collection location, and thereafter, transferring the tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body from the collection location to a second location in the patient's body, said step of transferring the tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body from the collection location to a second location in the patient's body includes compacting the tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body and removing fluid from the tissue.
- Claim 2. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of compacting the tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body includes applying force against the tissue by centrifuging the tissue.
- Claim 3. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of compacting the tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body includes compressing the tissue to form a mass having a desired configuration.
- Claim 4. A method of harvesting and utilizing a patient's body tissue, said method comprising the steps of removing tissue from a first location in a patient's body, transporting the tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body to a collection location, said step of transporting the tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body includes moving the tissue under the influence of suction, and thereafter,

transferring the tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body from the collection location to a second location in the patient's body, said step of transferring the tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body from the collection location to a second location in the patient's body includes packing the tissue into an opening at the second location in the patient's body, said step of transferring the tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body from the collection location to the second location in the patient's body further includes compacting the tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body and removing the fluid from the tissue prior to performance of said step of packing the tissue into an opening at the second location in the patient's body.

- Claim 5. A method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said step of compacting the tissue removed from the first location in the patient's body includes applying force against the tissue by centrifuging the tissue.
- Claim 6. A method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said step of compacting the tissue removed from the first location the patient's body includes compressing the tissue to form a mass having a desired configuration.
- Claim 7. A method of harvesting and utilizing a patient's body tissue, said method comprising the steps of removing tissue from a first location in a patient's body, moving a flow of fluid and body tissue from the first location in the patient's body to a collection location, removing the body tissue from the flow of fluid at the collection location, subjecting the body tissue removed from the flow of fluid to pressure, and thereafter, moving the body tissue removed from the flow of fluid to a second location in the patient's body.
- Claim 8. A method of harvesting and utilizing a patient's body tissue, said method comprising the steps of cutting pieces of tissue from a first location in a patient's body, utilizing suction to effect a flow of fluid and cut pieces of body tissue from the first location in the patient's body, removing some of the cut pieces of body tissue from the

flow of fluid and other cut pieces of body tissue, and thereafter, packing the cut pieces of body tissue removed from the flow of fluid and pieces of body tissue into an opening at a second location in the patient's body.

Claim 9. A method as set forth in claim 8 wherein said step of packing the pieces of body tissue removed from the flow of fluid and other cut pieces of body tissue into an opening at a second location in a patient's body includes pressing the cut pieces of body tissue removed from the flow of fluid and other cut pieces of body tissue against the patient's body tissue disposed at the second location in the patient's body.